

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

In the application, original claims 1-25 are pending, of which claims 1, 12, 18, 24 and 25 are independent. The Office Action rejects all pending claims. Particularly, claims 1-2 and 4-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,682,525 to Bouve ("Bouve," and assigned to Civix Corporation). Claims 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Published U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0052674 to Chang ("Chang"). Finally, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve in view of Chang.

In response to the Office Action, Applicant amends claims 1-4, 6-7, 12-13, 18 and 24 to more clearly recite patentable aspects of the invention, and cancels claim 22. Applicant respectfully submits that, with the entry of these claim amendments, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 1 as amended and claim 25 are directed to methods for searching an information retrieval system according to either a user's location or user-identified geographical location information provided in a table pre-configured by the user. Independent claim 12 recites a system including a geographic locations processor for receiving a user-defined geographical location and a database index for generating a search query including the user-defined geographical location. Independent claim 18 as amended recites a method for performing a search on an information retrieval system for items of interest within a radial

distance of a user's present location, "wherein the radial distance is determined such that a minimum number of search results will be identified by the search." Independent claim 24 as amended recites a method for performing a search, comprising steps of "configuring a table of names of geographical locations identified by a user," and searching the table for the named geographical location and corresponding location information.

Several of the dependent claims, such as claims 7-11, are further directed to steps for storing specified names of personalized landmarks in a database for subsequent searching. Put another way, the user configures a database with his own landmarks by identifying locations and providing his own names for them (e.g., "near Johnny's old school"). During operation, the user then speaks the landmark name and the system searches for the requested items of interest in the vicinity of the specified landmark.

The Bouve reference is primarily directed to a kiosk for enabling users to search for items of interest located in the vicinity of the kiosk. In a second embodiment, the information is stored in a central server that can be accessed remotely, enabling users to select among a plurality of remote locations (e.g., Los Angeles International Airport) to search different categories of requested items of interest. For searching around a user's present location, Bouve also discloses a system for detecting a mobile telephone user's positional coordinates. While Bouve discloses a system that enables a user to select from a short list of landmarks, these landmarks are not identified by a user, and location information is not stored in a table that is pre-configured by the user.

The Chang reference is directed to an information search system for a mobile communications device to retrieve information corresponding to a user's current location. The system additionally utilizes an "automatic positioning system" to track a user's mobile position and predict the future travel path. Like Bouve, the Chang reference does not disclose a system or method that enables a user to pre-configure the database with user-defined locations.

Accordingly, neither Bouve, nor Chang, taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest any of (i) a method of searching an information retrieval system, where information regarding different geographical locations is pre-configured by the user (in claims 1 and 25), (ii) a system including a geographic locations processor for receiving a "user-defined" geographical location (claim 12), (iii) a method for performing a search "wherein the radial distance is determined such that a minimum number of search results will be identified by the search" (claim 18), and (iv) a method of "configuring a table of names of geographical locations defined by a user" (claim 24).

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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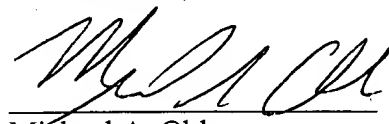
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Respectfully submitted,

ANDERSON, ET AL.

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